

# English Department Newsletter

22 October 2014

Vol. 9, No. 3



This is the third newsletter of the academic year. Our next issue will be published on 5 November 2014.

## DEPARTMENT REMINDERS

This year's **SEFA** campaign is upon us! Please fill out the forms left in your mailboxes. You can access a paperless copy of the participating charities by visiting [www.buffalostate.edu/sefa](http://www.buffalostate.edu/sefa). As a reminder, folks who donate will be given raffle tickets to win a number of prizes including your very own parking space! Please return your SEFA forms to Lorna Perez's faculty mailbox (in the faculty lounge) and she will give you tickets accordingly. If you do not wish to donate, please let me know as well. Please turn in these forms by Oct 31. Also, please turn your forms back in even if you DO NOT intend to donate (you can just put a paperclip on them and put them back in my mailbox) as they want us to keep track of this as well.

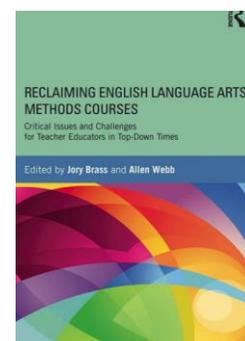
**Advisement** is nearly upon us! Please remember that all of your advisees are now mandated to come see you before they can register. You will find your advisees' PINS in Banner, under the Spring 2015 advisee listing. Please start scheduling your senior advisees as soon as possible.

**Summer teaching** schedules have been sent out. If we have made a mistake or need to make adjustments, please let us know as soon as possible.

## FACULTY NEWS

**DR. CHARLES BACHMAN'S** new poetry collection *Flinch Only a Little* (2014) is out from Virtualbookwork.com Publishing.

**DR. JAMES CERCONI** has published *Communities of Practice: Bridging the Gap Between Methods Courses and Secondary Schools in Reclaiming English Language Arts Methods Courses: Critical Issues and Challenges for Teacher Educators in Top Down Times* (Brass, J & Webb, A. Eds. Routledge, 2014). The chapter focuses on how theoretical frameworks of situated learning, peripheral participation



*(Lave and Wenger, 1991), learning within communities of practice (Wenger, 1998) and James Gee's notions of affinity spaces (2009) can be used to re-conceptualize English teacher education and position teacher education programs as regional hubs for teaching and learning in the English Language Arts. Dr. Cercone's chapter draws on research he has conducted on the Western New York Network of English Teachers and the English language arts methods courses he has taught.*

**From the book:** *Reclaiming English Language Arts Methods Courses* showcases innovative work in teacher education that fosters teachers' capacities as reflective practitioners and public intellectuals; extends traditional boundaries of methods courses on teaching the English language arts, literacy, children's and young adult literature; and embodies democratic and critical politics that go beyond the reductive economic aims and traditional classroom practices sanctioned by educational policies and corporate educational reforms.

Featuring leading and emerging scholars in English language arts teacher education, each chapter provides rich and concrete examples of elementary and secondary methods courses rooted in contemporary research and theory, on-line resources, and honest appraisals of the possibilities, tensions, and limits of doing teacher education differently in a top-down time of standards-based education, high-stakes testing, teacher assessment, and neoliberal education reforms. This book offers important resources and support for teacher educators and graduate students to explore alternative visions for aligning university methods courses with current trends in English and cultural studies, critical sociocultural literacy, new literacies and web 2.0 tools, and teaching the English language arts in multiethnic, multilingual, and underserved urban communities.

**PROF. KIM CHINQUEE'S** flash fiction, "I Take Off the Skin," has been accepted for publication for an upcoming issue of *Bat City Review*, <http://www.batcityreview.la.utexas.edu/>

**DR. LORNA PEREZ'S** paper "Separating Suffering and Imagination: Reading Gaps and Gulfs in Cristina Garcia's *Dreaming in Cuban*" has been accepted for the "Contemporary Writings of The Hispanic Caribbean in The United States" panel at this year's NeMLA conference in Toronto.

**DR. PETER RAMOS'S** book launch for *Television Snow* was a big success. Thank you **Dr. David Lampe** for hosting this event, thanks to all who came out, and most importantly thank you to Peter for the amazing reading and work.

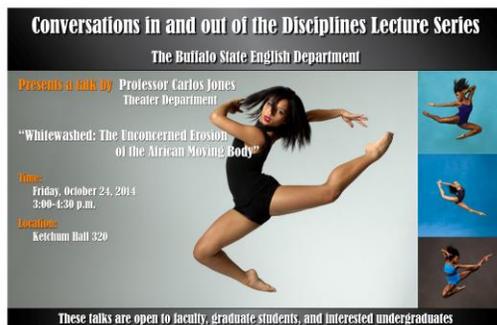
**DR. KAREN SANDS-O'CONNOR** recently returned from Cave Hill, Barbados, where she presented a paper entitled "Caribbean Nostalgia or British Activism? Publishing for West Indian Children in Britain" to the 33rd annual West Indian Literature Conference. MA Student **Anthony Digesare** also attended, and presented his paper on the films of Horace Ové and Euzhan Palcy.

### SHAKESPEARE GARDEN

A number of educators and other interested people, including faculty emeriti **DR. CRAIG WERNER** and **DR. LINDA DRAJEM** have begun work on a Shakespeare garden for the Buffalo area. A generous plot of land has been secured at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum grounds on Porter Avenue, some funds have been raised, and work on planting and fencing has begun. It is hoped that the garden will open sometime in 2016. We are heartily seeking interested English Department faculty to help in this innovative project. We are also seeking a student to build a website and maintain it with the expectation that such maintenance will soon be taken over by committee members. The building of an iOS app is also contemplated. If you are interested in helping, and if you can recommend students with technical expertise in need of internships, please contact Lorna Perez ([perezll@buffalostate.edu](mailto:perezll@buffalostate.edu)), and also send an email to [wernerCG@buffalostate.edu](mailto:wernerCG@buffalostate.edu).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2014–2015 "**CONVERSATIONS IN AND OUT OF THE DISCIPLINES**" will continue on **Friday, October 24, when Carlos Jones will present a talk titled "White Washed: The Unconcerned Erosion of the African Moving Body."**



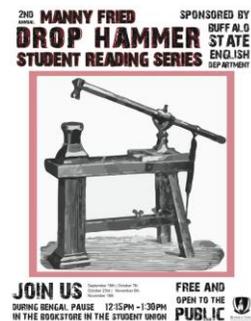
### THE DROP HAMMER STUDENT READINGS

The next Drop Hammer reading will be held on Oct 23 from 12:30-1:30 at the Campus Bookstore. Free coffee/refreshments and snacks will be provided. Students wishing to read from their works of nonfiction, fiction and poetry may contact Professor Chinquee at

[chinquk@buffalostate.edu](mailto:chinquk@buffalostate.edu).

**THE CREATIVE WRITING CLUB'S** next meeting will be held at 1 pm on November 12th in the Student Lounge.

A tour of the Richardson Complex has been arranged for **Saturday, November 8th** at noon for **Creative Writing Club** students. The cost is \$10 per student. CWC students interested in the tour, and any student wishing to join the Creative Writing Club can contact Professor Kim Chinquee at [chinquk@buffalostate.edu](mailto:chinquk@buffalostate.edu)



Save the Date!



AIMEE LEVESQUE'S UP! [Unique Productions] will be presenting an original play, *The Process*, November 13-16, and November 20-23.

## CENTERS, PROGRAMS, AND PUBLICATIONS

### ELJ Submissions

ELJ, [Elm Leaves Journal](#), is accepting submissions of fiction, nonfiction and poetry for our 2014 Harvest issue. So far, the issue includes work by Trevor Dodge, Kathy Fish, Lydia Copeland, Gail Seigel, and others. Please send work in an email to [eljbuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:eljbuffalo@gmail.com). Thank you.

### Ketchum Hall Writing Center

The Ketchum Hall Writing Center remains open and ready to assist your students with peer-to-peer tutoring. The Center's hours are 10-4:30 M-Tr, and 10-3 on Fridays. The center takes walk-in appointments as available, but students are encouraged to set up an appointment either in person or by calling x5409. As a reminder, the center will provide your student with a sheet that summarizes what kinds of topics were covered in a session, so you can see what the tutors and your student worked on. As midterms approach, please remember to encourage your students to use this service.

### Department Website

We continue to work on updating the department website. Please send current bios and photos to Lorna Perez. Also be sure to update your information in the college directory, as this is where your contact information is pulled from.

### English Education

English department alumni, English Journal coeditors and SUNY New Paltz professors of education, [Julie and David Gorlewski](#) spoke on campus at the ongoing [Western New York Network of English Teachers](#) speaker series. Local English teachers, pre-service teachers, English teacher educators, professors and other members of the Buffalo-Niagara education community attended the standing room only event. Attendees joined Julie and David for a reception following their talk. Julie spoke the following day on campus as part of the [English Education Student](#)





Association's ongoing **Brown Bag Lecture series**. Julie and David's talks focused on responses to current Neoliberal education reforms, changes in communicative technologies and the role of teacher educators within current cultural and economic contexts.

## USEFUL REMINDERS AND THE PROFESSION

**Please remember to calendar your committee meetings and events on the Department's Calendar.** If you cannot do this, please email Maureen the title of your event, the day, the time, and the room number and she can add them to the calendar. Please also remember to upload your committee work products and minutes into the shared drive.

**KETCHUM HALL SECURITY:** We are continuing to address the security issues in Ketchum Hall. Please remember to engage in good practices—not leaving your offices open and unattended, take portable equipment home, lock up valuables, lock file cabinets with personal or student information in them—and most importantly if you see something suspicious, please call UPD x6333.

**MIDTERM GRADING:** The midterm grading window opened on October 13<sup>th</sup> and will be active until this Friday October 24! Please remember to submit your midterm grades formally to Banner. This will allow students who need intervention to get the additional support they need. This important intervention cannot happen if you simply ask your students to check the grade-book in Blackboard; submission of midterm grades in Banner allows the Early Intervention Program to contact your students if needed. Also, please note that you may enter attendance information in with your midterm grades as well. In the "hours attended" field, you may enter 0 (never attended), 1 (sporadic attendance), or 2 (consistent, satisfactory attendance).

**FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE:** University College has released the CEP schedule for Fall 2014. As a reminder, you are **REQUIRED** to meet with your students during this time, even if you are not giving an exam.

According to *Inside Higher Ed* there is some positive news on the job front for those with humanities degrees! Check out the article below:  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/10/17/positive-reports-humanities-earnings-art-school-job-prospects>

Similarly, this [article](#) in the *Chronicle of Higher Ed* suggests that humanities degrees have more value than the simple equation of cost weighed against earnings, as these calculations do not account for tangible benefits like social value.

Meanwhile, while not bemoaning or repositioning the state of the discipline, it is worth noting that this article <http://gu.com/p/42gmv> from the Guardian questions why academics are shabbily dressed. While its causal argument is interesting, we can only hope that our resident scholar of fashion, [Dr. Barish Ali](#), can chime in and evaluate these claims.

## ALUMNI NEWS

*Alumni, we want to show off your achievements and hear about what you are doing. We've created an alumni booklet featuring profiles of English Department Alums that demonstrate the wide variety of things one can do with an English major. We have also created an alumni bulletin board in Ketchum Hall featuring Alumni profiles. If you would like to be featured, please send an email to Maureen Lougen ([LOUGENM@BuffaloState.edu](mailto:LOUGENM@BuffaloState.edu)) with the subject line "alumni board" (feel free to include a recent professional photo). Also, we would love to hear from you to find out what you are up to. Please feel free to send your news and achievements for this newsletter to Maureen Lougen with the subject line "alumni newsletter item". Please include your graduation year and degree info.*

[Christopher Stampone](#) (BA, 2007) has passed his qualifying exams for his PhD at the Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences at Southern Methodist University.

[Don A. Martinez](#) (BA, Writing, 2008), (MA, English, 2010) went to work in teaching, initially on the college level. He spent four years as a teacher of Developmental Writing for college freshmen at LeTourneau University (Longview, Texas) and Panola College (Carthage, Texas). In the fall of 2014, he will begin work as a 9-12 grade English Language Arts teacher at Karnack (TX) Junior/Senior High School. In addition to his teaching work, Don has also parlayed his BSC degrees into establishing an independent publishing house, **Desert Coyote Productions** ([desertcoyote.weebly.com](http://desertcoyote.weebly.com)) which to date has produced 16 books, including five of his own.

*Reminder: Please let us know your news and achievements for the next newsletter. Send your info to Maureen Lougen ([LOUGENM@buffalostate.edu](mailto:LOUGENM@buffalostate.edu)), copied to Lorna Perez ([perezll@buffalostate.edu](mailto:perezll@buffalostate.edu)) with the subject line "newsletter item".*